THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

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"*The heart of the righteous studieth to answer*" (PROV. 15: 28). "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear*" (I. PETER 3: 15).

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CONVENTION OF THE ELDERS OF THE BRITISH MISSION.

IN response to the call of President E. Taft Benson, a convention of the elders of the British mission was held at "Deseret," 152 High Road, South Tottenham, London, N., September 9th and 10th, 1913. There were in attendance at the meetings: President E. Taft Benson of the European mission; President Hyrum W. Valentine of the Swiss and German mission; President Edgar B. Brossard of the French mission; President Thomas C. Hair of the Netherlands mission; President Theodore Tobiason, *en route* for Sweden to take up his duties as President of that mission; Elder Fred R. Woolley, emigration clerk for the European mission; Elder Orval W. Adams, secretary of the European mission; four lady missionaries and approximately two hundred and fifty traveling elders of the British mission. Elder Clyde C. Edmonds was sustained as secretary of the convention. President E. Taft Benson presided over all the sessions.

The opening meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. Opening hymn, "Come all ye sons of God." Invocation, President William H. Stayner. Singing, "Catch the sunshine."

President E. Taft Benson expressed his pleasure in welcoming such a noble body of men to the convention in London. Gave some timely instructions to the elders with regard to the meetings, and their stay in the world's greatest metropolis. Spoke of the benefits to be derived from these meetings, and encouraged those present by quoting some of the promises of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young to the energetic and faithful. Emphasized the fact that we must prepare ourselves to meet the battle which the

world presents, and impressed upon all the magnitude of our message. Invoked the blessings of God upon the meetings, and upon all present.

Elders William W. Seare, George Cannon Lund, William D. Hoover, and Elmer M. Savage, sang the quartette, "Art thou weary?" in a very able manner.

Elder Clyde C. Edmonds gave a paper on "Records and Finances." Pointed out the fact that the records we keep are the records of the kingdom of God upon the earth, and hence are of vital importance. Cited instances showing the great amount of trouble caused by neglect in making up the original record. Keeping a complete and accurate record of every member of the Church, and of every ordinance performed in the field, is an essential feature of the mission work. Far-reaching complications arise from inaccuracies in the records. The finances should be carefully and conscientiously handled. Since the money received from the saints is consecrated to the holy purposes of the Lord, it should be used for those purposes only. Under no circumstances is the money to be loaned out, or used for personal purposes by those in whose keeping it is placed.

The meeting was thrown open for the discussion of the subject, and many important questions were asked and answered by the elders. The assembly sang the hymn, "See the mighty angel flying."

Elder George Duffin gave a paper on "Tact in Presenting the Gospel Message." Explained that inasmuch as the gospel has been restored, with the command to carry it unto "every nation, kindred, tongue and people," a great responsibility rests upon the handful of elders who are sent forth to proclaim it. In order to be tactful in presenting the gospel message, we must have the following qualifications: Love for the work; humility; sincerity, and obedience. Our authority permits us to take the positive stand and say, "Thus saith the Lord." We must never contradict a statement unless we have ample reason for doing so. Seldom debate truths, as they cannot be changed. Study the person with whom you are conversing; remember that he has been born and raised under, and indoctrinated in the tenets of his religion, and it is natural for him to try to defend them. Recognize the virtues of his religion; acknowledge the beauty in all things, and be cheerful and optimistic in your work.

During the general discussion of the subject, President Theodore Tobiason brought out clearly the fact that we must not tear down other people's religious structures, but must build ours more beautifully, and then invite them in. A cheerful smile and a pleasant manner will aid us greatly in our work. President Valentine, on the same theme, said, "Counsel with your companion, never argue." Defeat in argument only wounds, and the opponent will seek revenge. Debate destroys the spirit of harmony and unity, which, undestroyed, tends to make us one, even as the

Father and the Son are one. Impressed upon all the necessity of giving and taking; of being tolerant, and willing to listen to the religious convictions of others, and of carefully fitting in a gospel wedge at the proper time. President Brossard said we must place ourselves on our listener's level in order to be tactful. To be in harmony with the work, we must learn to love it. We must not leave others to climb the gospel ladder as best they can; but we must encourage them and help them up. Take persecution bravely; face public opinion fearlessly, and never be turned from our purpose. President Hair added that we must have confidence in ourselves, our message, and in the people. We must add to prayer, humility, energy, faith, confidence, etc., to ensure success. President Benson advised the elders to start each day right; kneel down and pray, and then get up and by your works answer your prayers. This is the most efficient way of becoming possessed of tact.

After singing the hymn, "Our mountain home so dear," and the offering of the benediction by President Warren S. Tew, the morning session was adjourned.

The afternoon session convened at 2 p.m. Singing, "Sweet hour of prayer." Invocation by President Stewart Eccles. Hymn, "Come follow me."

Elder Fred R. Woolley read a paper on "The Liverpool Office and the Elder," in which he showed that a place of headquarters was as essential to the mission as a rudder is to a ship. The relationship between the Liverpool office and the elder was of great importance. The elder coming into the field reports first at the headquarters of the mission; during his mission, monthly reports of his work are kept there, and when he leaves his field of labor, the last place he goes, before sailing, is the Liverpool office. The President of the mission is stationed there, and it is from this place that he sends forth his advice and counsel to the elders in the various conferences. Perplexing problems are sent there for solution; the publication of our literature is done there; through that office the emigrants are taken care of, and in that place all the statistical and financial records for the European mission are compiled. The elder should understand that the Liverpool office was established for his own good, and that in accepting a "call" to the European mission, he does so unconditionally, and should, therefore, respect and obey the experience and counsel of the man chosen to stand as the authorized head of the mission. There is not one duty to be neglected, however distasteful it may appear. Cited examples, showing that victory comes to those who volunteer to fight for truth for the love of truth, and not for monetary returns. Gave many minor instructions which, if followed, will cause the mission work to be carried on more harmoniously between the Liverpool office and the elder.

Elder Ray D. Nicholes sang the solo, "Face to face," very pleasingly.

President Eddis W. Watkins read a paper on "Efficient Tracting." He showed that although tracting may be disagreeable to some elders, still it is a duty they enjoin upon themselves by coming into the world to preach the gospel. The elder should not object to tracting, but enter into it energetically, and consider it an opportunity. Results may not be forthcoming immediately, and it may appear that more good is accomplished in spending the time visiting the saints and their friends; but we should be delivering our message to all people, and this cannot be done by devoting our time solely to visiting. The distribution of literature is important, and opportunities to converse upon the gospel should be diligently sought. Study your tracts and be prepared to intelligently discuss their contents. When your tracting district is favorable, visit it with new literature often. Follow up friends, and do not neglect people who received your message kindly. The morning hours are the most desirable for tracting, and if we work three hours each morning, we can easily comply with the mission requirement of forty hours conscientious tracting per month. "Every elder should seek for the spirit of his calling, and put his soul into his work: then he will learn to love it, and the Lord will be with him."

Elder Reuben J. Owen rendered a selection, "Hold Thou my hand," in a very commendable manner.

In the discussion of the paper on "Efficient Tracting," President Warren S. Tew suggested that we study our districts well, and become acquainted with the individual streets. Notes should be kept of the good districts, and also of the indifferent. He advised the elders to make their districts smaller, and to work them studiously and conscientiously. Make friends, gain their confidence, and then explain the beauties of the gospel to them. Results are bound to follow. President Wilford W. Rich said that tracting was being pursued in the country districts of his conference, and that the people in many instances were very hostile. Gave a few pointers to aid the elders in their work. President E. Taft Benson said that although his experience in this line of work was limited, he knew that tracting was an agency for opening up opportunities to deliver the gospel message. Fundamentally, we must frame our minds pleasantly, and consider tracting as lovable. He knew from varied experiences that if we are faithful in the work, our love for it will grow. Referring to the forty hour standard of the mission, he said that many elders go very high above that mark, while others fall considerably under. The elder who works hard and earnestly, is the elder who gets to meet the people and to discuss the principles of the gospel. The forty hour minimum is not an iron-clad rule, but an ideal to be reached or excelled. If we neglect the duty of tracting, we are not filling the bargain we made when we accepted our "call." We should give our best service, and go into the work with a full purpose of

heart. If we make tracting our greatest ideal, then the written, if not the verbal message, will reach all men. Then, when we accept our release, we can do so honorably, and without shame.

The assembly sang the hymn, "O, my Father." Benediction by President Elias A. Lemon.

The evening session was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Opening hymn, "Come, all ye sons of Zion." Invocation, President Melvin J. Benson. Continued by singing the hymn, "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire."

President E. Taft Benson took the opportunity to extend to all present the heartiest greetings and good wishes of the saints and elders of the various missions on the Continent.

Elder Fred R. Woolley read a paper entitled, "Contributions to the *Star*," written by Elder Thomas W. Brookbank, associate editor of the *Millennial Star*, who, through unavoidable circumstances, was unable to be present at the convention. The paper stated clearly the wide scope of the message the *Star* may contain, which include truths of interest from many fields of modern research and learning. Quoting from Section 88: 77-80, of the Doctrine and Covenants, it was shown that we should obtain a knowledge of the gospel in its fulness; lay a solid foundation in its first principles, and build upon that an equally solid superstructure, by learning things pertaining to this world, and the nations upon it, etc. Having obtained a knowledge of the gospel in theory, principle and doctrine, we are told to teach and instruct others in these things. This can be done both verbally and by the written word. The *Millennial Star* offers excellent opportunities to give the written message to thousands of people. Before writing an article we should thoroughly familiarize ourselves with the subject in mind, that our remarks throughout may be clear, and the points well defined. Learn to know when you have written sufficient; study well the construction of your sentences; learn to express your ideas clearly and systematically. If proper care is not taken with the manuscript, several hours may be required at the hands of the editor to correct the same, hence the articles should be written and re-written until it appears fit for publication. In the first efforts do not try to write a long article in which the interest may wane, but write a short, concise contribution, after studying the theme carefully. It will speak more highly of your ability. In quoting scripture or profane authors, the words and punctuation should be carefully given as they appear in the original. Never be guilty of plagiarism. In quoting from the writings of another author give the proper credit, or where the author is unknown, use quotation marks.

Elders Arthur J. Sperry and Porter S. Tillotson sang a sacred duet very pleasingly.

President E. Taft Benson emphasized the necessity of short articles as contributions to the *Star*, as they were needed very

often to fill a space which was too small for the longer articles on hand. President Brossard urged the elders to develop their literary abilities while the opportunity was within their reach. To be able to compose a paper is a talent which we should all be possessed of, and his admonition was to try it. President Valentine said that we will appreciate the paper more if we contribute to its columns. It is our paper only when we make it such by writing our thoughts and ideas in it. To write our thoughts is one of the most efficient ways of learning, and we are thus aided materially in surmounting obstacles and overcoming difficulties. Encouraged all to become partners in the paper, and to endeavour to increase its circulation.

The assembly sang the hymn, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet."

Elder David H. Cannon gave a paper on "Tithing and Fast Offerings." Stated that his purpose was not to preach tithing or fast offerings, but to outline what he considered the best method of preaching these principles to saints and friends, which will carry conviction and bring results. In summing up the arguments of his paper, Elder Cannon writes: "Reasons that tend to show the justice and equity of tithes and fast offerings should be taken up under the following heads: For tithing: It promotes active interest as each person has a part to perform; it is just because each man pays according to his temporal blessings; the evils of the contribution boxes passed round in churches are done away with. * * * For Fast Offerings: After explaining the conditions which brought about the law, and endeavoring to impress upon the minds of the people the value of the order under these circumstances, show its real worth now. The fund is for the relief of the worthy poor only, and no indolent man is sheltered under its comforting cloak." The blessings derived from obedience to these laws should not be overlooked. Temporally we are blessed with flourishing missions; "schools of religion and general knowledge; temples for the salvation of our dead kindred; comforts for our living brethren," beside many individual blessings resulting from obedience to these laws. We cultivate the spirit of sacrifice, our souls are enlarged, and we are storing our treasures in heavenly vaults for our future enjoyment. The reason for its observance being necessary is because it is a direct command from God.

President Elias A. Lemon, speaking on this subject, said that the saints in his conference were converted to the law, and many blessings had resulted. The prosperous saints are the faithful tithe-payers. He believed it should be preached at the firesides more than in the halls. President Thomas E. Briggs said that saints who have been in need, but who have paid their humble tithing, must admit that the Lord has blessed them abundantly. Candidates should never be baptized without a full understanding

of the law. If people are not converted to tithing, they are not converted to "Mormonism." Urged the elders to teach it strongly.

Elder William D. Hoover sang in a talented manner the selection, "Abide with me."

Continuing the discussion, President Melvin J. Benson said that he was converted to tithing, and only expected to be blessed according to his obedience to this law. Many of the saints only pay half tithes, but when we consider that temples are built, and the earth is being prepared for Christ's second coming with the tithes of the people, such practices as half payments of tithing should be corrected. President Tobiason emphasized the fact that all blessings are predicated upon obedience. The honest tithe-payers are the ones who enjoy the Spirit of the Lord. Tithing is an insurance against apostasy. If the Lord should say to the grudging tithe-payer, "Because of your slothfulness, I do not want it," then the payer would see the privileges of the law. "If not converted to it, study it, and then strengthen thy brethren." President William H. Stayner feared that we beat around the bush when preaching tithing, lest we might drive away some investigator. We must not mislead. Let the saints know that their tithing often stays right in their own branch to pay for the hall in which they meet. Convert them to the fact that they pay their tithes to God, and not to the elders. Showed that the disbursements of the "Fast Offerings" were twice as great as the receipts in one year, and pressed the point that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." President Valentine drew two parallels, namely: The backbone of the mission is tracting; the backbone of the Church is tithing. If the saints do not pay an honest tithing, there is something wrong; if the elders do not tract honestly, there is something wrong. Here is an opportunity for the elders to set an example. If the saints believe in Joseph Smith and the gospel restored through him, they must believe in tithing. Gave some timely advice regarding the stewardship of the elders; the care that should be used in handling the money; and with regard to our work in general.

The closing hymn, "Ye who are called to labor," was sung, and the benediction was offered by President Lafayette Jackson.

The morning session on September 10th was called to order at 9 a.m. Opening hymn, "To-day, while the sun shines." Invocation, President Wilford W. Rich. Continued by singing the hymn, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning."

Elder Orval W. Adams read a paper on "Physical Health and Exercise." In this paper the necessity of a strict observance of the Word of Wisdom was emphasized. The promise that we "shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint," can be fulfilled only by obedience to the requirements. In order to be physically fit to ward off the attacks of disease germs, we must have proper exercise, be moderate in our eating, careful in what

we wear, and always permit plenty of fresh air to enter our lungs. Our bodies will go with us in the progression of the eternities, therefore we should care for them properly. The elders of the British mission should realize that they come from a high altitude, and in fourteen or fifteen days drop down to sea level. Considering this, and the change of food and climate, etc., the utmost care should be taken to preserve our health. A few minutes of proper exercise and deep breathing each morning, and discretion as to what we eat and wear, will do much to keep us healthy. Keeping the teeth, and the body generally, thoroughly clean is an important factor for health. Learn the art of deep breathing; permit plenty of fresh air to circulate in your bedroom and living room, summer and winter. Gave some timely instructions as to the proper food to eat, and warned his hearers of the dangers of damp bed-covers in this humid climate. Sometimes we must exercise the power of mind over matter, and cast off the feeling of indisposition that overtakes us. Form health habits now, and receive the benefits of a lengthened life dividend in added years. To be worthy bearers of the Priesthood of God, our bodies should be pure and strong. At the conclusion of the paper President Brossard gave a demonstration of some very effective exercises, which he advised all to put into practice.

A vocal solo entitled, "I will come home when the ebb-tide flows," was ably rendered by Elder Elmer M. Savage.

In the discussion which followed the paper on "Physical Health," many important points were brought out, and opinions were offered on the best method of properly caring for our bodies, and making ourselves physically fit to perform our duties.

Elder Frank H. Eastmond read a paper on "System in the Daily Life of a Missionary," in which he reviewed briefly the conditions of certain pursuits in life fifty or a hundred years ago, and showed the wonderful change that has been wrought by up-to-date system. The schools of fifty years ago, and the methods of accounting at that time, have no place in the modern communities and business of to-day. We pride ourselves that our Church is up-to-date in all respects, and this truth is attested by the facts that our organization has no equal—that other schools are patterned after the Church schools, and that our home life is enviable. The responsibility of keeping the mission field as much up-to-date as the other phases of the great latter-day organization, devolves upon some two thousand missionaries, most of whom are young and inexperienced. Cited examples to prove that regularity of habits and persistent endeavor have a marked effect upon the human organism. A united effort, and faithful compliance with the requirements of the authorities by the elders, would wield a wonderful influence for good over the mission. Each missionary should commence his day's work systematically, and have accomplishment as his aim. Men of accomplishment testify that

their success lay in the systematic planning of their work, and the systematic working of their plan. The missionary should fully realize the magnitude of his calling, and the necessity of performing his duties in the most proficient manner possible. This can be done by system, regularity and persistence. Each man should plan his work ahead, and faithfully follow that plan.

Elder Grover P. Greaves was scheduled to sing a solo, but was unable to do so owing to a cold which he had contracted. Elder Samuel J. Russon consented to fill the number, and very ably sang the hymn, "Lead Kindly Light."

President Lafayette Jackson, speaking with regard to system, said that we should be systematic in our studies, as well as in our other activities. Study one subject thoroughly; do not ramble from one unfinished subject to another. Read aloud, and discuss the topic with your companion. In carrying out your system, do not put off tracting because it rains at the specified time for tracting. Adjust your system to the condition of the weather; study during the rainy hours, and tract when the weather is clear. President Stewart Eccles rejoiced in the convention. Said the benefits of the splendid advice we were receiving could only be brought out by practice. We should plan our work a day ahead, and be prayerful in our efforts to carry it out. Bore a strong testimony to the divinity of the gospel. President Cyril Duffin said that where more than two are in a lodge, it is more easy to squander time, and care should be taken to faithfully utilize every minute for the development of ourselves and for the advancement of truth. The way to be able to deliver the gospel message intelligently, and to exercise our abilities, is to practice. By so doing we gain light as we gain experience. President Amos R. Cook said that we must not waste too much time calculating and planning. Our primary duty is to WORK. Arrange things so that you will be busy all the time. It is a miserable sensation to feel that you ought to be working when really you are wasting your time.

President E. Taft Benson, and Elders Luther E. Eggertsen, Aubrey O. Andelin and Clyde C. Edmonds sang in quartette, "Joseph Smith's First Prayer."

Continuing the discussion, Elder Roscoe E. Hammond said that he had felt from the start that he should have some system to work with. He felt the lack of it in the mission field. If we arrange to study at certain hours, we get the habit. By regularity we avoid waste. Prayed that we might be able to utilize the time properly. Sister Rachel Duffin was encouraged by the convention, and felt that her labors would bring her more joy in the future. In tracting she had had considerable success, and she related one or two of her experiences. Was thankful to be privileged to come into the world, and considered it an opportunity of a lifetime to be present at this convention. President Valentine

said that because Haley's Comet appeared in the pathway of the earth, there was considerable apprehension among scientific men. But those who relied upon the revelations of the Lord knew that the system of the universe was all right, and that there was no need of such disquietude. We should try to have our activities thoroughly systematic, so as to avoid all conflicts. He said that conference presidents should work along with the elders and set them a worthy example. When it rains commerce is not at a standstill; neither should our tracting be brought to a halt. Advised all to get up early and go out tracting early. President E. Taft Benson gave some timely instructions, and some miscellaneous work was transacted.

The closing hymn, "O ye mountains high," was sung, and the benediction was offered by President Thomas E. Briggs.

The concluding session of the Elders' Convention convened at 2 p.m. Opening hymn, "Sunshine in the soul." Invocation, President Cyril Duffin. Continued by singing the hymn, "Though Deep'ning trials throng your way."

Elder Byron Mendenhall read a paper entitled, "Conduct." After quoting some of the admonitions of the Prophet Joseph to the elders generally, the paper was centered upon the elder in his lodge. He must convert himself to every principle of "Mormonism" first, or his entire mission will be a failure. The virtues of humility, meekness and charity should be sought, and consideration for the weaknesses of others should be fostered. Be honest and upright; be a gentleman in the highest sense of the word; be prayerful and ask God for guidance in all of your activities; be with your companion always, and be a true brother to him; exercise temperance in all things. On the street the elder should walk uprightly, and carry with him the spirit of noble manhood. The aged should be respected, and the authority of all public officers should be recognized. In trying circumstances, or when being jeered at or ridiculed, exercise patience, and show by your actions your superiority. Remember that the eyes of the world are upon you. In visiting with saints or friends, the elder should conduct himself in the manner of a manly and dignified minister; be pleasant and cheerful, but never indulge in ridicule or unseemly jesting. If strangers are present, make their acquaintance and let your influence be felt for good. Do not keep late hours while visiting, and there will be a welcome for you when you return. Be prompt and willing to perform an act of charity. Special stress was laid upon the fact that there must be nothing of the nature of familiarity between elders and lady-folk. We must keep ourselves aloof from the iniquities of the world, as the result of transgression or undue familiarity is disastrous.

A sacred solo, "Ninety and nine," was sung in a very commendable manner by Elder Byron R. Jordan.

President William E. Moss said that we must make our lives ex-

emplary, as our acts are closely observed. We are closely watched by the saints for examples of proper living, and we have their confidence, but we can, by a slight act of misconduct, lose it. We are given full instructions as to our conduct before we come into the mission field, and we are held accountable to authority. We shall be rewarded according to our actions, and if we look for full blessings we must obey all the laws of God. President Milton Jacob said that we should not occupy seats in the background of the mission field, but come to the front, and we will find plenty of work to do. He believed in authority; he came here in compliance with the desires of those in authority, and he was proud to be here, and to bear the priesthood of God. With regard to conduct, he added that our lives, our acts, and our appearance should be sermons in themselves. Sister Marintha Eccles was pleased to have the privilege of bearing her testimony. She knew that if we live as God has commanded, we shall be exalted in the eternities. In tracting she had preceded the elders, and had tried to allay prejudice that they might be enabled to converse with more people. Felt that if she could do this she would be thankful. Left her blessing with all present. Elder John A. Maynes said he was amazed when he thought of the grand power of the priesthood, and the unpopularity of the cause with which that power rests. Truth is generally an unwelcome visitor. We have met together to discuss the best methods of presenting the truths of which we are the stewards, and the papers read were the result of much thought. We should all profit greatly by the lessons taught in the convention. Appreciated being affiliated with men who have no thoughts of personal gain, but are here for the good they can do. Our mission is not all sacrifice. Our life's ledger is balanced by the experience and development we receive. His prayer was that we might have strength to live consistently with our teachings. Elder Earl McCullough, president of the Rotterdam conference of the Netherlands mission, brought love and greetings from the elders of that mission. The Holland elders were interested in the convention, though they could not participate. Gave a brief report of the work being done in Holland, and told of the prosperous branches in that mission. The saints there paid an honest tithing, and were willing workers.

Elder Orval W. Adams placed a proposition before the assembly, and by a unanimous vote the visiting presidents of the Continental missions were requested to convey to the saints and elders of their respective missions, a message of love and sincerest wishes for their future success, from the elders and saints of the British mission.

Elder Joseph A. Wood played a selection on the piano in an accomplished manner.

Elder Hermon J. Wells read a paper on "The Priesthood of God and Its Responsibilities." Introducing his subject he told, in a very engaging way, of the dispensation of the priesthood to the

prophets of the western continent, and of the direct commission given to the apostles at Jerusalem. We, to-day, are commissioned with the same authority, and are endowed with the same priesthood as were the elders of old. In our casual observations, when we behold groups of listless men and boys, for instance, congregating at the street corners on Sundays, and holidays, to smoke and gossip and idle away the time, we can appreciate the priesthood we bear and the duties connected therewith. Perhaps the first great responsibility of the priesthood is that we make ourselves pure in body and in mind. We cannot be unclean and have a fulness of the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts. We must follow humbly in the footsteps of the Master, and then, if our words do not appeal to those with whom we come in contact, our lives will. "The Church of Christ to-day is standing trial before the world, and from us, its representatives, all is judged." We should not be neglectful of our duties; we must be energetic and diligent in the dispatch of our message, for there is a great spiritual famine in the land, and we are delegated to relieve that suffering. Showed by a forceful illustration the need of continuous searching and undying patience and endurance in the hope of finding the honest souls that we know are hungering for the gospel message. When we contemplate the work accomplished by the early elders of our Church, and then consider the conditions to-day, we have reason to hang our heads. The strength of the apostles and prophets and great leaders among God's people, lies in the fact that their lives were centered in the priesthood, and they sought, in humility, to know the will of the Lord, and to do it. We must likewise humble ourselves and endeavor to become fit instruments through which the Lord may operate. Another requisite of bearers of the priesthood is that of unity and brotherhood. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." We are privileged to come into the mission field with a divine commission, and we must magnify our calling, exercise the power of our priesthood, and "not only be willing to die for the truth, but we must be willing to live for its advancement."

Elders Arthur J. Sperry, William J. Young, Lawrence A. Southwick and Karl S. Willes sang the quartette, "Oh, Genevieve."

Elder Luther E. Eggertsen said that he had to come several thousand miles away from his home before he was awakened to the responsibility of our authority. Only when brought down in humility and thrown upon the resources of God, do we realize the greatness of our power. The magnitude of our work is apparent when we consider that about two hundred and fifty elders are delegated to carry this latter-day message to some forty million people in Great Britain. Are our lamps burning? Are they fed with the fuel of humility and prayer? Do we realize what is expected of us? Our gospel is eternal; our organization is eternal, and both are for the perfecting of the saints.

President Theodore Tobiason sang, to the pleasure of all present, the sacred solo, "I know that my Redeemer lives."

President Brossard felt it a privilege to come from France to England in order to glorify God. With the stewardship of the priesthood of God, "Mormonism" should bring the world to a condition of perfect citizenship. We are not building air castles; we are building heaven upon the earth. We are not dealing with mind alone, but with matter. We not only think, but act. Our righteous thoughts and acts build up, and our evil thoughts and acts degrade not alone ourselves, but those around us. Our loved ones are desirous of seeing us advance, but only inasmuch as our hearts, minds and bodies are pure will we meet with success.

Elder Alexander Orgill skilfully rendered a selection on the violin.

President Hair said that the spirit of these meetings reminded him of the spirit that existed at his farewell social before his departure for the mission field. This same spirit should accompany us in our labors. In all of our activities and walks and talks in life we should apply the test, "Would Christ do this?" We should set high ideals, reach them, and then raise them higher. Prayer is a means of getting a testimony on our bended knees; tracting is a character-builder, and a means of getting a testimony on our feet. President Tobiason felt more than repaid for being present, and said if we would take the lessons we had learned and live them, it would prove to be a grand investment. When we come into the mission field we dedicate everything to the Lord; but are we ready to stand the test, if the Lord should require everything of us? He felt sometimes that it would be a blessing if the elders would devote their efforts to accomplishing their work as energetically as they strive to avoid it. We cannot put too much energy into our work when we consider that in Great Britain there are only six missionaries to every million people. Let us delight to honor and serve God, for if we magnify His name He will bless and prosper us. His anxiety for our welfare is far greater than that of our earthly parents. President Valentine expressed his appreciation of the convention; of the kind reception prepared for the visiting friends, and of the opportunity afforded him to carry back so many good instructions to the Swiss and German mission. Told of the good work being accomplished in that mission. Admonished all to bring their spirits into harmony with the Spirit of God, and if our humble works do not receive recognition on this earth, and we apparently lose our life, we shall find it with Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God. Gave some timely advice in a powerful and eloquent manner. Elder Fred R. Woolley had looked forward to the convention with much pleasure, but the realization was greater than the anticipation. He felt that the Spirit of God has been present to such a degree that the most callous heart would have been softened. Brought out the fact that our actions here bring either joy or disappointment to

our parents at home, and the only way we can repay them for their sacrifices to keep us here, is to work. Prayed that as a result of the convention we would all become more successful missionaries. President E. Taft Benson felt the unusual power of the Spirit that was in our midst. The tears that had been shed were tears of joy, and he felt that the object of the convention had been reached. We have been strengthened in spirit; our energies have been renewed; we have partaken of the spirit of love and humility, and should go forth in power, carrying the spirit of the convention with us, remembering the splendid instructions that have been given. Think of our endowments and the responsibility resting upon us. Make our work a labor of love, as it should be, and always beware of scandal. If we have ever indulged in scandal, we must crush it out of our lives. We must have good, or nothing. In behalf of the elders, he thanked the visiting presidents for their help, and for their excellent instructions. The committees were also thanked for their diligent efforts to make the convention such a marked success. Admonished the elders to go forth with his blessing, and with the instructions they had received as aids to higher attainments. After singing the hymn, "God be with you till we meet again," the benediction was pronounced by President Milton Jacob.

In the evening a successful social was held, at which a very interesting program was rendered, consisting of vocal solos, quartettes, readings, and instrumental selections. The rendition of the various numbers manifested much talent among the saints and elders.

CLYDE C. EDMONDS, Secretary.

CONVENTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS.

THE seventh convention of the conference presidents of the British mission convened in response to the call of President E. Taft Benson, at "Deseret," 152 High Road, South Tottenham, London, N., on Thursday, September 11th, 1913. There were in attendance: President E. Taft Benson, of the European mission; President Hyrum W. Valentine, of the Swiss and German mission; Conference Presidents Warren S. Tew, of Birmingham; Wilford W. Rich, of Bristol; Elias A. Lemon, of Hull; Thomas E. Briggs, of the Irish conference; Melvin J. Benson, of Leeds; William H. Stayner, of Liverpool; Stewart Eccles, of London; Lafayette Jackson, of Manchester; Cyril Duffin, of Newcastle; Amos R. Cook, of Norwich; Eddis W. Watkins, of Nottingham; William E. Moss, of the Scottish conference; Milton Jacob, of Sheffield, and Elder Clyde C. Edmonds.

The meeting began by singing, "Come, O Thou King of kings." Invocation, President Lafayette Jackson. Continued by singing, "If you could hie to Kolob."

President Warren S. Tew said the Birmingham conference is

in good condition. The elders are living up to their duties, and the saints in general are faithful workers. Four new branches have been opened, and he hoped they would thrive. Opposition is not so strong of late. Bore a strong testimony.

President Wilford W. Rich has found difficulty in keeping in touch with the scattered saints. The Bristol conference is large and the elders are few. The elders have been tracting country districts where the message seldom goes. He felt that they are united in their work, and are living exemplary lives.

President Elias A. Lemon said that the elders of the Hull conference are united, and are working hard to spread the gospel message. Street work is progressing; they have good crowds, with little or no opposition. The saints are enjoying the spirit of the gospel, and are converted to the law of tithing.

President Thomas E. Briggs reported the Irish conference. Elders give him their support, and are united in their work. Street work, in some parts, is closed down because of bitterness. In other places, the street work has brought out investigators. Saints are getting along nicely, and are good workers.

President Melvin J. Benson reported the Leeds conference in good condition. Elders and saints, in general, are united. Scarcity of elders makes the work hard. The opportunities for street work are very few. Elders are energetic, and by preaching the gospel while out visiting among the saints, they are gaining many proselytes.

President William H. Stayner was proud to report the Liverpool conference. Elders and saints are united, and the conference is self-supporting. Street work is generally successful. Agitation is quiet, at present. Felt that he could vouch as to the upright lives the elders live, and felt that the support between himself and the elders is mutual.

President Stewart Eccles appreciated his labors in London. Felt that unity exists among the elders. London has thirteen branches, but due to agitation, several halls have been closed against them. Said they visit saints in disorganized branches to keep the spirit of the gospel in their hearts. Hoped to see the London conference flourish.

President Lafayette Jackson said the Manchester conference is in fairly good condition. Some branches are flourishing; others are waning. The elders are united, and the saints in general are enjoying the spirit of the gospel. Felt that there is always room for improvement, and hoped the lessons of the convention will raise the conference standard.

The hymn, "Who's on the Lord's side, Who?" was sung.

President Cyril Duffin said the work is progressing in Newcastle. Was in sympathy with the idea of working right along with his elders. The tithing is increasing in that conference. Saints and elders are in good condition. Opposition has quieted down, and the conditions are better. Street work has been discontinued.

President Amos R. Cook reported that the elders and saints in the Norwich conference are united in the work. He tried to be a companion to each elder. Felt that good halls are essential if we expect investigators. Ipswich is still bitter; other branches are flourishing, and street work is prospering.

President Eddis W. Watkins said conditions in Nottingham are very favorable. Branches are generally self-supporting. Saints seem interested and united. No violent opposition. Spoke highly of the elders and the unity that exists among them, and of their diligence in the work.

President William E. Moss felt that there is considerable room for improvement in the Scottish conference. The elders are doing a good work by visiting the saints often. The saints are faithful, and are trying to observe the laws of God. Conference is self-supporting. Felt that by placing the elders in new fields, more good could be accomplished.

President Milton Jacob felt that Sheffield is in a prosperous condition. The elders in that conference are fairly well united, and are supporting him in his position. Tracting record is low, but he expected it to be better in the future. Felt that his duty as a leader is to say, "Come on," not "Go on."

President Hyrum W. Valentine gave some clear and definite instructions to the conference presidents. "The steam," he concluded, "that blows the whistle, won't turn the wheel." We have been "blowing off" steam for three days; now we must turn the steam into channels that will "move the wheel."

President E. Taft Benson reminded the conference presidents that they should use their Books of Instruction in settling all questions that may arise. Observe your elders carefully; see that there is equality and tolerance among them. Keep awake for better opportunities to apply yourselves to your work. Many other instructions of importance were given.

After singing the hymn, "High on the mountain top," President Thomas E. Briggs offered the benediction.

CLYDE C. EDMONDS, Secretary of the Conference.

The elders of the British mission are indebted to Mr. James Foggo, manager of the publishing department of the mission, for his splendid work in executing the mechanical part of the programs of the convention and concert.

CONTENTS:

Convention of the Elders of the British Mission 609
Convention of Conference Presidents 622

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